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Question1: I believe the Conservation Reserve Program has more to do with the high land prices than any other factor. In our area, outside interests are buying the farmland away from the farmers in the area. This in return is killing our small communities.

Question2: I believe there is little effort being made to do the best for the farmers of this country. Instead we are being comprimised for the sake of trade with other countries. (CAFTA and the Canadian border issue) We need the support of our government, not shouldn't be a pawn for world trade.

Question3: The program payments can mean the difference of a profit for the year or a loss. These program payments should only go to producers and not big corporations. I find it interesting that companies get program payments while they are also in the business sector. Companies such as Harvest States and such should not be able to collect on the backs of the hard working producers. They make a profit every year while farmers struggle to make ends meet. We seed about 1500 acres of wheat, corn, sunflowers and soybeans in a given year. We receive about \$14,000.00 per year program payments. While these companies report large percentage of profit each quarter, the program payment may or may not be the profit for the year for the producer. Pay the producers for the job they do because we can not control the markets, these large companies do.

Question4: Some of the regulations surrounding environmental issues make no sense to those of us in the trenches. I do believe the rules need to be written by people directly impacted by them. We have people making regulations who have no idea what it is they are doing. Walk a mile in our shoes then go back and rewrite the regulations.

Question5: Rural areas are being impacted by CRP and the fact that this program has encouraged non-farming persons to invest in the farm land in our surrounding area. They purchase this land, pay the taxes and that is all they contribute to the community. The government is paying them to purchase this land (CRP payments) or it is a retirement program for older farmers. Farmers need to be able to farm the land they own, this in return adds to the economics of our communities. Our small towns are dying and you are helping it to become a reality.

As far as I can see, if you truly want to invest in rural America. Invest in the producer not the investors.

Question6: Farmers are the best at what they do. The government has allowed big business to dictate policy. Do the right thing and do what is best for the farmers and not big business and we will all be rewarded.

Bio-diesel and ethanol are a major plus for the producers. Encourage production of these fuels and we will be rewarded and so will the rest of the country instead of letting the large oil companies control the markets.

In closing, I came to this page to give my views on what the farm policy of 2007 should address. Instead I found six questions, that as far as I am concerned, don't get to the heart of the matter. Making a policy for the producers and only the producers. The farm policies of the past have not addressed the core of the problems. When the rest of the country is sitting down to a table of food produced by the farmers of this country, some of these farmers are having difficulty in feeding their own families. We have in our state had food drives for some of our producers that have had the misfortune of being in a drought area. This is not the reward hard work and dedication should have. While you and others in the working sector are provided health insurance, we have to provide our own. I can tell you, our program payments barely cover our health insurance and we have a \$1,000.00 deductible and large out of pocket expenses. In our small community not too many businesses provide full family coverage as a benefit. My husband for many years was without coverage as a means of saving money. The person most at risk and he had no coverage. Maybe you could set up a program to furnish a group policy for the farmers to join so we could also have the same benefits as other. (Maybe we could all join the federal program that you all benefit from and our tax dollars pay for)

My suggestion would be to do the right thing and not make decisions based on politics or influences of special interests. In my heart I do believe it is possible. I look forward to a good solid program written for the family farmers of this great country.

Thank you